

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049066

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YO, US

SUBJECT: U.S. SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: PARIS 2295

1. PRESS STORIES ON OUR MILITARY SALES POLICY FOR YUGO-
SLAVIA REFERRED TO BY LEQUERTIER (REFTTEL) HAVE BEEN
DISTURBING TO GOY, PARTICULARLY FOR THEIR ALLEGATIONS THAT
YUGOSLAVIA IS VULNERABLE TO SOVIET PFESSURE EXTERNALLY AND
TO CENTRIFUGAL FORCES OF NATIONALITY PROBLEMS INTERNALLY.
SENSATIONAL PRESS TREATMENT HAS INDICATED THAT USG DECISION
TO SELL GOY MILITARY ITEMS HAS JUST BEEN MADE. IN FACT,
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WE HAD A LARGE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR YUGOSLAVIA

THROUGHOUT THE FIFTIES WHICH WAS TERMINATED AT GOY REQUEST.
IN THE SIXTIES OUR MILITARY SALES TO YUGOSLAVS CONSISTED
PRIMARILY OF SPARE PARTS FOR THEIR US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT
AND AMMUNITION.

2. STARTING IN 1970 BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONS WERE
TAKEN UP AGAIN ON AN ACTIVE LEVEL, WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING
ON BOTH SIDES THAT IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO BUILD UP ATMOSPHERE
OF TRUST AND COOPERATION. SINCE THEN WE HAVE EXCHANGED
HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, AND YUGOSLAVS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN PURCHASING VARIETY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM US,

INCLUDING SOME EMBODYING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. WE HAVE MADE
DECISION THAT IT IS IN US INTEREST TO SUPPLY GOY -- ON CASH
SALE BASIS ONLY -- CERTAIN ITEMS, INCLUDING SOME WHICH ARE
SECURITY-CLASSIFIED, TO IMPROVE YUGOSLAVS' DEFENSIVE
POSTURE. WHILE SOME ITEMS LISTED BY GOY REMAIN UNDER OUR
CONSIDERATION, OTHERS HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR SALE TO YUGO-
SLAVS, INCLUDING: JET TRAINER AIRCRAFT; HELICOPTERS;
RADAR SYSTEMS, NAVIGATIONAL AND RADIO EQUIPMENT; AERIAL
CAMERAS; PILOTS' FLIGHT GEAR; FUZES FOR ROCKETS; CERTAIN
KINDS OF BOMBS, MINES AND AMMUNITION; TOW ANTITANK WEAPON.
OUR RECENT OFFER OF LAST ITEM REPRESENTED IMPORTANT BREAK-
THROUGH IN OUR MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONS.

3. GOY HAS NOT YET PLACED FINAL ORDERS FOR MOST OF THESE
ITEMS.

4. WE WOULD WELCOME INFORMATION YOU ARE ABLE TO ELICIT
FROM FRENCH IN RETURN. INGERSOLL

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